The techno-economic appraisal has been completed for consideration of the Planning Commission. A provision of Rs. 2 crores only has been made in the 7th Plan for this project.

Requirement of Sugar

2240. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA:

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of sugar in the country is inadequate to meet the domestic consumption;

(b) if so, what is likely shortage during the current year and the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of sugar imported during the last three years, yearwise; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to increase the domestic production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The sugar production during the current 1986-87 season aggregated to 73.10 lakh tonnes as on 15th April, as against 63.76 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date last year thus showing an increase of 9.34 lakh tonnes. The sugar production during the current 1986-87 season may exceed the initial estimates of 75 lakh tonnes. The present overall sugar availability in the country including imported sugar stocks are adequate to meet the requirement of internal consumption in the current season 1986-87 and also provide a reasonable carry over for the next season.

(c) The quantity of sugar imported during the last three years was as under:

(in lakh tonnes)

Year (Financial Year)	Quantity imported
1984-85 . . .	4.85
1985-86 . . .	20.22
1986-87 . . .	7.95 (Provisional)*

*This includes imported sugar in transit as on 31st March, 1987.

(d) The Government has already taken the following steps to augment the sugar production:

(i) Increase in statutory minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories from Rs. 16.50 to Rs. 17.00 per quintal linked to 8.5 per cent recovery for the current season 1986-87.

(ii) Announcement in advance of a higher statutory minimum price of sugarcane for the next season 1987-88 at Rs. 18.00 per quintal linked to 8.5 per cent recovery.

(iii) A rebate in excise duty has been announced for early crushing during October and November, 1986 as well as for late crushing during May and June, 1987 on production in excess of average quantity produced during corresponding periods in preceding two seasons.

(iv) The free-sale quota of sugar has been increased from 45 per cent to 50 per cent to improve the viability of sugar mills.

(v) Under the new sugar policy for 1986-87 and for the Seventh Plan period various measures for development of sugarcane cultivation and establishment of new capacity are envisaged.